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RUTH WAKEFIELD INTERVIEWED

A few months ago Ruth (Mrs. Kenneth) Wakefield of Pill Hill was the subject of a feature article by Barbara Burtoff in the **Herald American**.

When asked about her world famed Toll House cookies, she smiled.

"Am I ever going to live that down?"

The cookies, originally called Chocolate Crunch Cookies, have been a legend since the 1930s when she created the recipe as a little something extra to serve with ice cream to guests at The Toll House Restaurant in Whitman that she and her husband, Ken, owned.

"These cookies have had a very interesting life and I've had more fun hearing how people have varied my recipe," she smiled, passing a cookie our way.

Peanuts and peanut butter, raisins and butterscotch bits, coconut and oatmeal have each been added to make Ruth Wakefield's Toll House treats more special. She, herself, varies the original recipe - and uses less flour for a more delicate finished product.

On a kitchen shelf in her gambrel roof cape, which was built back in the late 1600s, is a copy of the book **War Letters**. Apparently even Queen Mary of England knew about those cookies! One of the letters mentions that at a Christmas party Queen Mary had for the troops in 1943 a New England serviceman had given her a box of the cookies as a gift.

Of course, if you wanted to get your hands on the recipe, the book to turn to would have been

The **Toll House Cook Book**, published in the 1930s by Little, Brown.

The Wakefields sold their beloved Toll House in 1967. Today, it is in new hands but still running.

At one time the lovely old Cape Cod house - turned - restaurant on the outskirts of Whitman had been a toll station where passengers ate while their horses were changed on the way from Boston to New Bedford. It was also the point where passengers paid toll for use of that particular

section of the road. That's how it got its name.

She is active on the Ladies' Committee of the Museum of Fine Arts, has been curator of the Sandwich Glass Museum, is a vice president of the Duxbury Historical Society, is on the executive board of the Pilgrim Society of Plymouth, is a director of the Massachusetts Children's Protective Society and has great interest in the New England Baptist Hospital.